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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of 14 members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Angola to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2007-2010 at the elections to be held in May 2007.

Please find enclosed the voluntary pledges and commitments of Angola in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 105 (e).

(*Signed*) Ismael A. **Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Angola's voluntary pledges to promote human rights

The respect for, and the valorization of, the rights and fundamental freedoms are deeply rooted in the history of Angola. Indeed, Angola fights for a wide implementation of the human rights consecrated in the international instruments to which the country is part.

Angola firmly believes that the peace, tolerance and serenity now enjoyed by its people contribute to the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms protected by the Angolan Constitution and other national and international legislation. Angola is fighting to foster the increment of political measures seeking to strengthen the implementation of the internal and external legislative provisions of the United Nations conventions on human rights.

In its post-conflict phase, Angola will continue to devote particular attention to the relationship between human rights, poverty, sustainable development and environmental protection, equal opportunity and access to essential natural resources (i.e. water), food, adequate shelter, sanitation services and education, as instituted by the respective United Nations bodies.

Angola is party to the following international instruments in the field of human rights and humanitarian law:

- Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1949)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (International Labour Organization No. 105) (1957)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and its first Optional Protocol (1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1980) and its Optional Protocol (approved recently for ratification)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) and its first Optional Protocol (recently ratified)
- Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (International Labour Organization No. 182)
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)

Angola will continue to promote and protect human rights at international and regional levels by:

1. Establishing a constructive dialogue and cooperation with members and non-members of the Council;

2. Seeking the mainstreaming of human rights into the United Nations system to enhance the coordination of its activities and effectiveness of the United Nations human rights machinery;

3. Improving the engagement of non-governmental organizations as a positive and important element of the dialogue in the work of the Council;

4. Commitment to the universality and indivisibility of all human rights, as well as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

5. Continuing its close collaboration and dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

6. Continuing to support regional and international processes that seek to advance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. Contributing to the ongoing reform of the United Nations bodies;

8. Ensuring adequate and effective responses to human rights crises when they occur, guided by universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, while promoting international dialogue and cooperation;

9. Demonstrating its readiness to cooperate in the universal periodic review mechanism which will subject all States to scrutiny;

10. Remaining committed to inviting relevant special rapporteurs.

To promote and protect human rights at the national level by:

1. Mainstreaming human rights throughout the society;

2. Promoting the rule of law, access to justice and reconciliation;

3. Promoting the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the implementation of the rights-based strategy to fighting poverty;

4. Promoting legislative measures in order to better harmonize the domestic legal order with Angolan international obligations in the field of human rights;

5. Continuing to support a constructive dialogue and increased cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights in Angola;

6. Continuing to give special emphasis to the strengthening of gender equality, the rights of women and the rights of the child;

7. Accelerating the process of ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1970);

8. Accelerating the process of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1988);

9. Accelerating the process of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

10. Ratifying, in the near future, all the international instruments signed by Angola, such as:

- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 17 July 1998
- The International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, 4 December 1989
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

11. Considering signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol;

12. Considering signing the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance;

13. Promoting better understanding and respect for social, economic, and cultural rights by training civil society actors in rights-based monitoring of development programmes, particularly the poverty reduction strategy papers;

14. Continuing to provide adequate resources to the new Ombudsman Office; by speeding up its establishment and strengthening the presence of the Ombudsman at the national level;

15. Training police officers in human rights principles to improve their protection capacities;

16. Integrating human rights into the national educational curricula;

17. Continuing to dedicate adequate resources to the governmental human rights committees and other agencies responsible for promoting and protecting human rights.